

Patricia Phillips, I am a 30 year resident, serving my 2nd term on the Pelican City Council. The LBC as the lead govt entity did not adequately distribute material for public review. At the very least, each affected community govt office or library should have a copy of the various documents for the public to study and form specific comments from. Pelican is a 1st class city. The City of Pelican has done very little to make available information on this topic. Should a mandatory borough formation legislation pass, than the Icy Straits/Chatham area borough should form as a Home Rule borough, to give each community the continued autonomy it already has.

The revised June 1997 Model Borough Boundaries does not adequately represent an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible. Rather it divides and conquers area and common interests in the Glacier Bay and Chatham Straits area. This revised plan separates Hoonah from its neighboring clan communities of Angoon and Kake. Is this a deliberate attempt to water down their political effectiveness? When the state undergoes reapportionment, they have to consider ethnicity and cultures. In 1991 the City of Pelican did not want to be in a borough with Hoonah. Paul Grant, City of Pelican attorney, in a Dec. 31, 1990 letter to Pelican City Council stated, "Hoonah's method of governance is highly appropriate to a traditional village, but conflicts with Pelican's way of doing things are inevitable. Sovereignty and subsistence will predictable be burning issues occupying much government energy in Hoonah, but not in Pelican. All in all, it seems that trying to combine Pelican and Hoonah into one borough would be like trying to mix oil and water..." Mr. Grant further stated, "It does not appear that any combination that included Pelican, Hoonah and Gustavus would meet the statutory requirements for borough formation because of the diverse economic and cultural base of those communities."

To separate Angoon and Kake from Hoonah would be detrimental to the solidarity of the native people of these incorporated communities. The population of these communities are interrelated and integrated in social, cultural and economic activities and "a borough government can be a valuable tool for local self determination that allows municipal and tribal government/organizations to co-exist successfully while resources are maximized." (pg 2, Nov. 2002 - Borough Government in Alaska)

Pelican, Hoonah, Angoon and Kake have commonalities, they each operate as distinct and well organized incorporated cities. A combined Glacier Bay and Chatham area borough more closely represents a social, cultural and economic blend of activities. This combined area is large and stable enough to support borough government. Gustavus is not incorporated and does not exercise taxing authority, or land use regulation, platting or municipal planning as do the incorporated cities of Pelican, Hoonah, Angoon, and Kake.

All these communities are located in rural coastal areas. Pelican, Hoonah, Elfin Cove, and Kake have fish processing facilities, and the economy is rural maritime, fisheries and subsistence based. Gustavus does have commercial fishermen, but their economy is directly linked to the National Park Service and other diverse employment.

Gustavus and Angoon are in the Chatham REAA. They have an established working relationship for their schools. Some Gustavus residents detest this sharing of school services. It's been stated that Gustavus has the highest personal income per capita. This attitude is a motivating factor to separate the Chatham area from the Icy Straits area. And is in direct conflict with, "Borough boundaries must conform to REAA boundaries..."

The consolidation of the school districts is my main concern. Because Pelican has a small population base will we be at the mercy of the larger communities in the struggle for funding. Look at Trapper Creek in the Kenai Borough, 27 kids, potential school closure or 1 teacher because of district funds being overspent in the larger communities. Pelican does contribute 4 mills to our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please send me a copy of the Hoonah's 2nd Feasibility Study. Patricia Phillips P.O. Box 33 Pelican, Alaska 99832